

1987

S-297  
Ward and Briddell Insurance Office  
Crisfield  
public

c.1900

The Ward and Briddell Insurance Company office is one of a collection of turn of the century masonry buildings that line Maryland Avenue between Main Street and the wharf. In contrast to the others, this building has been altered to a larger degree with an exterior layer of stucco and a remodeled interior. Remaining within the building is the old insurance office safe.

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. S-297

Magi No. 2002975711

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Ward and Briddell Insurance Office

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number Northwest side of Maryland Avenue ☐ not for publication

city, town Crisfield ☐ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Somerset

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

## 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Joyce Ward

street & number telephone no.:

city, town Crisfield state and zip code Maryland 21817

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Somerset Clerk of Court liber

street & number Somerset County Courthouse folio

city, town Princess Anne state Maryland 21853

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

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### Condition

☐ excellent  
☒ good  
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

### Check one

☐ unaltered  
☒ altered

### Check one

☒ original site

☐ moved      date of move \_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

### Ward and Briddell Insurance Company Office Description

The Ward and Briddell Insurance Company office stands on the northwest side of Maryland Avenue (MD 413) in downtown Crisfield, Somerset County, Maryland. The single-story office faces southeast.

The c. 1900 single-story stuccoed brick store building is covered by a gable roof that is hidden behind a parapet.

The southeast (main) elevation is three bays across with a center door and flanking single-pane sash windows. Iron bars cover the window openings. Smaller second floor window openings have been clouded. A slightly projecting stuccoed band stretches across the building above the second floor windows, and the upper wall surface is plain.

The side walls are exactly alike with a stepped parapet descending towards the rear and undistinguished stuccoed surfaces. A brick stack rises from the northeast side.

The northwest side of the building is divided into three bays as well with a grilled iron door and flanking barred windows. The top of the wall is marked by a corbelled arch instead of a flat parapet.

The two-room interior has been remodeled but the iron vault, centered within the building, remains intact.

## 8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

### Specific dates

### Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D  
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

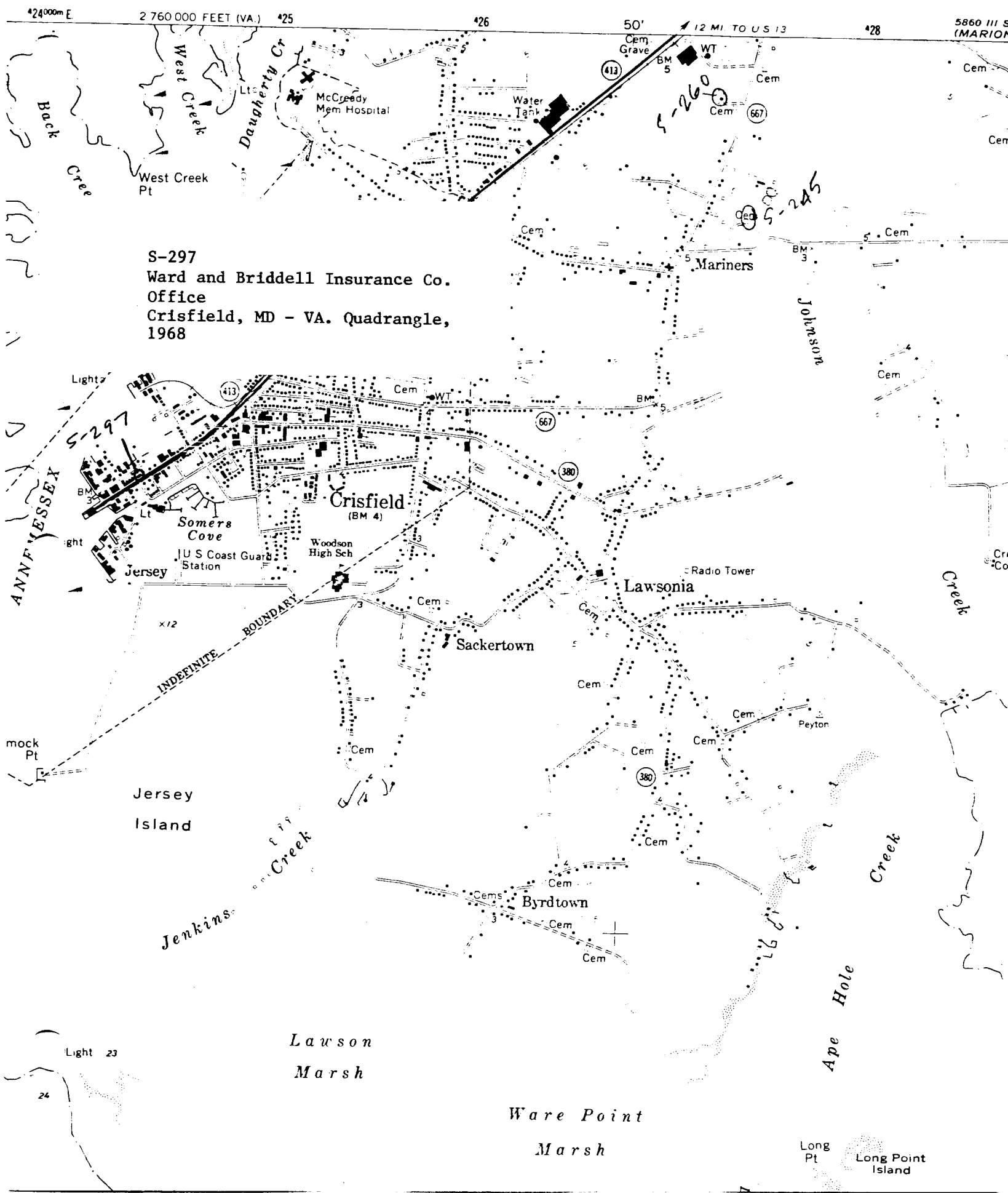
Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

### SIGNIFICANCE

The Ward and Briddell Insurance Company office is one of a collection of turn of the century masonry buildings that line Maryland Avenue between Main Street and the wharf. In contrast to the others, this building has been altered to a larger degree with an exterior layer of stucco and a remodeled interior. Despite its alterations it still retains architectural significance as one of a collection of masonry commercial buildings erected in place of the initial frame structures, that dated from Wrisfield's earliest period of development (1866-1900).



UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY





Ward & Briddell Office            S-297  
Crisfield, Somerset County  
Southeast Elevation  
8/85, Paul Touart, Photographer  
Neg./Md. Historical Trust





Ward & Briddell Office                      S-297  
Crisfield, Somerset County  
Northwest Elevation  
8/85, Paul Touart, Photographer  
Neg./Md. Historical Trust